

Activity 3

Fables

WALT: understand the text. **

This unit in English we are looking at fables. Today we are going to re-read the fable and answer the questions below on the specific language choices the author uses.

E.g.

How do you feel about the kangaroo? What language does the author use to make you feel this way?

I feel that the kangaroo is not a trustworthy character and not very nice. I feel this because the author described the kangaroo as sly, cunning and selfish whereas, we described the other character as friendly, caring and kind hearted. This clear juxtaposition* between the characters makes it clear to the reader that the kangaroo is not to be trusted throughout the story.

*juxtaposition — 2 opposite ideas next to each other.

How does the author show the characters anger? What sentences or phrases are used?

How are the different characters seen throughout the story? Do their characters change throughout?

What defining features do the animals get from the story? How is this presented?

The Kangaroo and the Porpoise

My grandfather told me this story one day when we were under a shady tree.

A long time ago in the Dreamtime, in the country around Bulbul, there lived a kangaroo and a Porpoise. The Porpoise was friendly, caring and kind hearted. Whereas, the Kangaroo was sly, cunning and selfish. Both Kangaroo and Porpoise had babies and they used to go hunting. One day, Kangaroo asked Porpoise if she would look after her baby whilst she went hunting for bush tucker.

'All right,' said Porpoise, 'I'll look after him.'

So, Kangaroo went off on her own to look for bush tucker- some long yams, goanna and emu. When Kangaroo came back she said to Porpoise

'All right, it's your turn now. You can go hunting and I'll look after your baby.'

So, Porpoise went off looking for bush tucker and Kangaroo stayed behind to look after the babies. Porpoise was away for quite a long time and her baby started crying because she was hungry. Porpoise heard her and rushed back to feed her.

'Give me my baby,' Porpoise said to Kangaroo. 'She's hungry and I want to give her some milk.'

Now that Porpoise baby was a really pretty baby and Kangaroo wanted to keep her for herself.

'No' said Kangaroo. 'She's crying for me, not you!'

'No, she's crying for me' said Porpoise.

'No' said Kangaroo.

'She's *my* daughter. Give her back' said Porpoise.

And they started to argue. Kangaroo grabbed a nulla nulla. She hit Porpoise and made a hole in her head. Porpoise got wild and grabbed a stick too. She hit Kangaroo on her two arms and broke them. Now Kangaroo couldn't pick up her baby so she could only hop on her back legs. She hopped away into the bush, with that Porpoise's baby tucked into her pouch. Porpoise was really sad.

'I don't want Kangaroo's baby' she said. 'He's too ugly'.

And she threw him into the pandanus trees. Then she ran down to the beach and jumped into the salt water. She dived down under the water and she swam about for a while. She came up to the surface again and the water spurted out of the hole in her head.

'I will stay like this forever,' she said. 'I'll live here in the sea'.

And she dived down again. She is still there today. Next time you see a Porpoise, look for the hole in its head. That's where Kangaroo hit Porpoise.

Kangaroo lived his life with little arms yet always remembered this happened because of his actions.

And that little Kangaroo baby turned into a white frog. You can still see him today, living in the pandanus trees.